

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS  
JUNE 6, 2023**

**ITEM 2**

**SUBJECT**

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO OR AMEND CONTRACTS UTILIZING DROUGHT RESILIENCE AND RESPONSE CONTRACT ALLOCATIONS.

**DISCUSSION**

The State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) Division of Water Rights is tasked with administering California's hybrid water rights system. California must strengthen its drought planning and response actions to address water resilience and supply needs in the face of the extreme wet and dry conditions experienced under a changed climate. The State Water Board received \$38 million in one-time contract funds via the Drought Resilience and Response Package Budget Change Proposal (BCP) to enhance water rights drought planning efforts and develop the technical and regulatory tools needed for administering an efficient and effective water rights system. Specifically, the Division will use this funding to 1) establish telemetry pilot projects to collect data and other information needed to better integrate into the Board's new water rights data system, and develop data governance best practices; 2) update existing regulations, methodologies, and procedures; 3) develop supply/demand models and allocation tools for implementing the water right priority system in up to 15 watersheds; and 4) collect data and develop modeling tools to determine water unavailability in the Delta watersheds that better incorporates return flows and geography.

The proposed resolution would provide the Executive Director or designee authority to enter into and amend contracts for work outlined in the Drought Resilience and Response Package BCP up to allocated amounts and commensurate terms without pursuing individual resolutions for each contract entered into with this funding. The Division plans to leverage existing provisions of the Governors Drought Executive Order [N-5-23](#), which eased state contracting requirements for contracts responding to recent drought conditions and planning for future drought scenarios.

**POLICY ISSUE**

Should the State Water Board authorize the Executive Director or designee to execute or amend various contracts to assist the State Water Board to enhance water rights drought planning efforts?

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funding used for this work was allocated to the State Water Board's Division of Water Rights via approval of the Drought Resilience and Response Package BCP for fiscal year 22/23. This resolution does not commit any funds.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The State Water Board should adopt the proposed Resolution.